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Minolta DiIMAGE A1 Review

Published Nov 11, 2003 | Phil Askey

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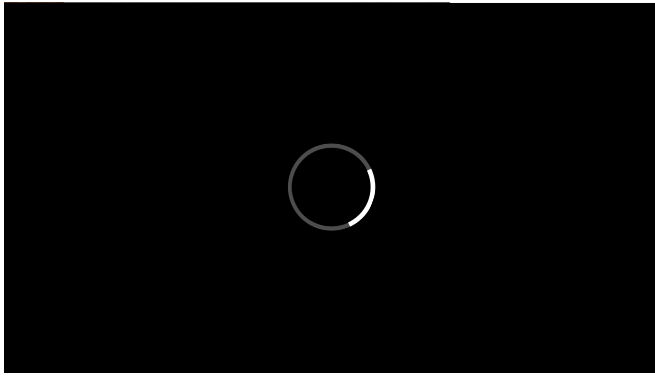
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Reviewing the Canon PowerShot V1 for Photography





Vlogging with the Canon PowerShot V1



The DiIMAGE A1 is the successor to the 'DiIMAGE 7' series of digital cameras. Minolta has chosen not to use the '7' name on this camera because they believe it to be such a leap forward in functionality and features. The A1 utilizes the same size CCD and 7x optical zoom lens as the DiIMAGE 7(Hi/i) however it is now powered by a dedicated Lithium-Ion rechargeable battery, has a tilting LCD monitor, a grip sensor and most importantly image stabilization (called 'Anti Shake') thanks to a CCD which can move on x and y axis. This innovative approach to image stabilization means that you can use a normal lens system and put all the complexity of shake compensation within the camera body (how effective it is we will only be able to report in a full review).

Minolta DiIMAGE A1 vs. DiIMAGE 7Hi (differences only)

	Minolta DiIMAGE A1	Minolta DiIMAGE 7Hi
		
List price	US: \$1,199	US: \$1,299
CCD	2/3" type 5.2 megapixel progressive	2/3" type 5.2 megapixel interlaced
Image sizes	2560 x 1920 2080 x 1560 1600 x 1200 640 x 480	2560 x 1920 1600 x 1200 640 x 480
TIFF label	TIFF	Super-Fine
A/D converter	14 bit	12 bit
Anti-shake	CCD stabilized (can be disabled)	None
AF Areas	11 points in Wide area focus mode	3 points in Wide area focus mode
Tracking AF	Yes	No
Manual focus	2x or 8x magnify	4x magnify
Flex Focus Points	124 x 87	15 x 19
Noise reduction	Dark frame subtraction for long exposures (can be disabled)	Dark fram subtraction for Bulb exposures
Control dials	Two (function can be customized)	One
Grip sensor	Triggers AF in full-time AF mode	None
Pa/Ps shift	Front dial shifts on aperture Rear dial shifts on shutter speed (function of dials can be customized)	Aperture / Shutter speed combined
Apertures	Wide: F2.8 - F11 (13 steps) Tele: F3.5 - F11 (11 steps)	Wide: F2.8 - F8 (7 steps) Tele: F3.5 - F9.5 (7 steps)
Shutter speeds	30 - 1/16000 sec (58 steps)	15 - 1/2000 sec (31 steps) (30 sec bulb, 1/4000 sec auto)
Spot metering	Center or with Flex Focus point	Follows Flex Focus point
Bracket steps	0.3, 0.5 EV	0.3, 0.5, 1.0 EV
AEL Button	Can be set to AE lock/hold or Spot AE lock/hold	Always Spot meters
Full auto mode	Yes	No



How to Use the Film Simulation Dial on the Fujifilm X-E5

HAVE YOUR SAY

Reader poll: 2025 Product of the Year

- Canon RF 45mm F1.2 STM
- Nikon Nikkor Z 24-70mm F2.8 S II
- Nikon Z5II
- Sigma 135mm F1.4 DG Art
- Sony a7 V
- Sony FE 50-150mm F2 GM

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FINISHED CHALLENGES



Christmas in Krakow by cafe snapper from Fortnight 65: My Best Non-bird Photo Shot after 2025-12-01

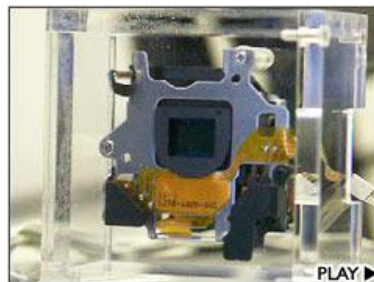
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Exposure mode	On mode dial	Via function dial
Mode dial	Unlocked	Locked
Record/play	Dedicated switch	On mode dial
Power button	On record/play switch	On mode dial
Scene modes	On mode dial	Dedicated button
Pro-Auto (reset)	No (although now has Auto mode)	Yes
Image Params	Filter +/- 5 Contrast +/- 5 Saturation +/- 5	Filter +/- 3 Contrast +/- 3 Saturation +/- 3
White Balance	Auto Daylight Tungsten Fluorescent Cloudy Shade Flash Manual preset 1-3	Auto Daylight Tungsten Fluorescent 1 Fluorescent 2 Cloudy Manual preset 1-3
One button WB	Yes	No
WB Fine Tuning	Daylight, Tungsten, Shade, Cloudy, Flash, Fluorescent can all be fine tuned in 7 steps	No
Continuous	High: 2.8 fps, max 3 JPEG frames * Normal: 2 fps, max 3 JPEG frames * * max 5 frames in RAW mode	High: 3 fps, max 9 frames Normal: 2 fps, max 9 frames UHS: 7 fps @ 1280 x 960
Movie Clips	320 x 240, 24 fps, max 15 mins	320 x 240, 15 fps, max 60 sec
Time-lapse	2 - 240 frames, 30 - 60 mins	2 - 99 frames, 1 - 60 mins
Self-timer	2 or 10 sec	10 sec
Viewfinder	0 to 90° tilting position 0.44" TFT LCD 235,000 pixels Rectangular eyepiece	0 to 90° tilting position 4.8 mm Ferroelectric LCD 71,000 24-bit colour pixels Round eyepiece
LCD monitor	-20 to 90° Tilting 1.8" TFT LCD 118,000 pixels	Fixed 1.8" TFT LCD 112,000 pixels
Playback magnify	2.0 - 8.0x, scrollable	2.0x, 2.5x, 4.0x, scrollable
Exif data note	Yes	No
FAT32 support	Yes	No
Power	NP-400 Lithium-Ion rechargeable 1500 mAh 7.4V Charger included	4 x AA batteries 1850 mAh NiMH included Charger included
Dimensions	117 x 85 x 114 mm (4.6 x 3.4 x 4.5 in)	117 x 91 x 123 mm (4.6 x 3.6 x 4.8 in)
Weight (inc batt)	643 g (1.4 lb)	639 g (1.4 lb)

Shake that CCD!



[Click for a larger image](#)



[Click for a movie of the Anti-Shake system in action \(exaggerated motion\) - 2.1 MB](#)

The DiMAGE A1 is (as far as I know) the only digital camera to implement image stabilization (Minolta call it 'Anti-Shake') by mounting the CCD sensor on a movable platform controlled by two actuators (x and y axis). The system works by analyzing input from motion detectors in the camera body and producing an inverse movement in the CCD. The system can be disabled (easily by pressing a very prominent button on the rear of the camera) and can also detect a panning movement and only compensate for movement on the opposite axis. Minolta claim that their system enables shutter speeds of 8 times longer (3 stops) than you would be able to manage without it.

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Another year has officially kicked off. Here are some of our goals for 2026.

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In this edition of our Question of the Week series, we're interested to hear what your 2026 New Year's photography resolutions are!

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DPRReview's ultimate camera gear wishlist for 2026: part 1

Our hopes and predictions for what Sony, Sigma, Fujifilm, Leica and Panasonic will do this year.

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In 2025, interesting cameras were only half the story

We also saw a host of odd and exciting lenses from most of the manufacturers.

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2025 has been the most interesting year for cameras I can remember

Any year that sees the launch of the Fujifilm X Half, the Sigma BF and a nearly \$8K mono-only, prime lens compact surely has something for everyone?

Dec 29, 2025 | [124](#)



2025 Reader's Choice Award winners and final vote for Product of the Year!

The first round of our Readers' Choice voting is complete. Find out which products won the Best Camera, Best Prime Lens and Best Zoom lens awards, and cast your vote for the Product of the Year for 2025.

Backgrounder

[Click here for a backgrounder document produced by Minolta](#) (PDF, 42 KB)

Tags: [review](#), [konica-minolta](#)

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Celebrating ten years of celebrating gear

2025 marks ten years of us writing our Gear of the Year series.

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Merry Christmas and happy holidays from DPReview!

As 2025 comes to a close, we'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a sincere thanks for being a part of our community.

Dec 25, 2025 | [25](#)



The most significant photography lessons you learned in 2025

Our latest Question of the week asked readers about the most significant photography lesson they learned in 2025. Here are their answers!

Dec 24, 2025



2025 by the numbers: what DPReview got up to this year

As we reflect on 2025, we're looking back at the stats: the number of cameras and lenses we've covered, images in our sample galleries and more. Come see what we accomplished this year.

Dec 24, 2025 | [17](#)



2025: Our year in stories, reviews and more

The highlight reel of a very busy year.

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The US government's de facto ban on new DJI drones is here

The FCC can no longer authorize new drones made in any foreign country.

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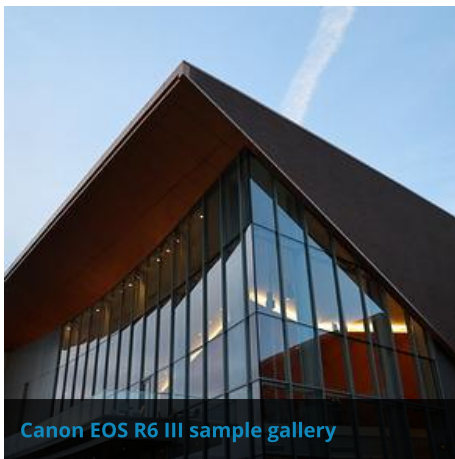


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REVIEW 2 weeks ago

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all-round capable cameras available. Excellent image quality, powerful autofocus and great looking video are the least you can expect. We've picked the models that really stand out.

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Dale's photo of the year: Everglades adventures

Managing Editor Dale Baskin's favorite photo adventure of the year took him to Everglades National Park in Florida with a telephoto lens.

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Canon EOS R6 III sample photos and videos: quietly competent

See what the photos and videos produced by Canon's latest enthusiast full frame mirrorless camera look like.

Dec 21, 2025 | [25](#) [SAMPLE GALLERY](#)



The DPReview team looks back at our predictions for 2025 - how'd we do?

In this episode of DPReview Discussions, the team takes a look back at our predictions for what 2025 would hold.

Dec 20, 2025 | [9](#)



The DPReview community in 2025

DPReview's Community Manager, Mathew Anderson, talks about the community in 2025, the new forum software, and reveals exciting new plans in development for 2026.

Dec 19, 2025 | [33](#)



We tested the Sony a7 V's dynamic range for ourselves: is this the peak?

The a7 V's partially stacked sensor is one of the most ISO invariant that we've seen to date.

Dec 19, 2025 | [156](#)



Mathew's Photo of the year: Computer game industry adventures

DPReview's Community Manager, Mathew Anderson, shares his love of community management through his experiences in the computer game industry, with a very special moment having met MythBuster's, Adam Savage, earlier this year.

Dec 18, 2025 | [15](#)



This year in camera tech: the advances that shaped 2025

2025 was mainly a year of continued progress, rather than blockbuster breakthroughs, but we've tried to pull out the



548

tech and trends that we think will underpin future cameras.

Dec 18, 2025 | 12



Lensrentals' figures hint at Canon/stills and Sony/video lockout

Lensrentals' annual breakdown of its most-rented products reveals some interesting trends in both stills and video usage.

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Question of the week: What is the most significant photography lesson you learned in 2025?

In this edition of our Question of the Week series, we're interested to hear about the most significant photography lesson you learned in 2025.

Dec 17, 2025



Gear of the Year - Abby's choice: the Hasselblad X2D II 100C

This monster of a camera made medium format photography approachable and, well, fun.

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Viltrox is bringing its fast 35mm Lab lens to Nikon users

The Viltrox AF 35mm F1.2 Lab lens is now available for Z-mount.

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Ricoh's latest, haziest version of the GR IV is nearly here

The Ricoh GR IV HDF is officially coming soon.

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Canon EOS R6 III in-depth review: no need for hype, just deliver

The EOS R6 III did well at almost every test we put it through, from shooting stills to filming several videos.

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Nikon is still adding features to the Z9, four years after launch

The company's latest firmware update for its sports and action camera improves the autofocus and lets you use it as the most excessive webcam imaginable.

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Readers' Choice Awards: Vote now for the best camera of 2025



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706

REVIEW 1 month ago

Sony brings its mainline camera up to the latest standards, but not much further.



Panasonic S1II review: improved AF completes breakthrough hybrid

250

REVIEW Nov 26, 2025

The S1II features a partially-stacked sensor, and may be Panasonic's first great do-it-all full frame camera.



Leica Q3 Monochrom - wilfully obscure or king of niche?

202

REVIEW Nov 20, 2025

The Leica Q3 Monochrom is a black-and-white version of the company's wide-angle compact but brings a couple of updates, some of which Q3 and Q3 43 owners will gain soon.



OM System OM-5 II in-depth review: the innovator showing its age

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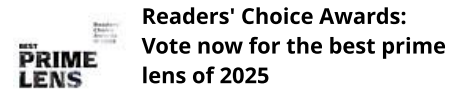


Oct 22, 2025

'What's the best mirrorless camera?' We're glad you asked.

It's time to vote! Tell us which new camera of 2025 deserves the honor of winning the 2025 Readers' Choice Camera of the Year Award.

Dec 15, 2025 | 49



It's time to vote! Tell us which new prime lens of 2025 deserves the honor of winning the 2025 Readers' Choice Prime Lens of the Year Award.

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Oct 8, 2025

Around \$1000 is increasingly becoming the entry point for modern interchangeable lens cameras. We look at what you can get for your money, and which we think is best. Updated following our review of the Nikon Z50II.



Best fixed prime lens cameras in 2025

Oct 1, 2025

The fixed lens camera market may be niche, but it's home to some of the best cameras you can buy.



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